

Whānau Pānui

7 September 2021

Kiā ora e te whānau

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Moving to Alert Level 2

You'll be aware that all of Aotearoa New Zealand (except for Auckland) is moving to Alert Level 2 from midnight tonight. Our thoughts and positive wishes are with everyone in Tāmaki Makaurau | Auckland.

We are really looking forward to welcoming everyone back onsite on Thursday morning. Tomorrow (Wednesday) we will prepare for re-opening to all on Thursday. We know this will be a very busy time for you all as you prepare your children and yourselves to return to school and to work.

School will start and end at the same time but we will begin the day with an extended Rōpu/Whānau time to make sure we have checked in with everyone and make sure everyone understands the level 2 rules.

At [Alert Level 2](#) there is low risk of community transmission, and it provides us with more opportunities to engage and connect with others. However, there are still several public health requirements we all need to follow.

Sick or unwell? Stay at home

Please do continue to monitor your health and do not send your children to school if they are not well (and please seek advice from your GP or Healthline about getting a COVID test).



Stay home if you are sick

Safe practice - hygiene

For us, all the required safety precautions for Alert Level 2 will be in place which include following all the recommendations from the public health experts. This means we will

- regularly clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces
- encourage everyone to frequently wash their hands and
- cough and sneeze into their elbow.



Wash & dry your hands



Clean and disinfect all surfaces and objects



Cough or sneeze into your elbow



Sanitise on your way in

Physical distancing

Because schools have great contact tracing (attendance rolls) and consistent groups (classes) schools do not need to follow the same physical distancing requirements as for other public indoor spaces during level 2.



While physical distancing is not a requirement in schools, we will be doing our best to keep students from congregating in very large numbers and keeping spaces well-ventilated.

What that means is we encourage there to be more spacing in the seating arrangements, and students should be far enough away from others so they are not breathing on or touching one another.

Face coverings (face masks)

The Director General of Health has **recommended** that children 12 years+ wear a face covering at school **just as they must in some other places**. It makes sense to wear them at school too.



The decision to wear a face covering is up to you and your whānau, whatever your decision it will be respected.

Face coverings (masks) are strongly encouraged.

It is one simple action we can take to be responsible for our safety and the safety of others.

Students should have their own masks and they are not to share them. Ideally everyone will have their own reusable mask and wash and dry it daily (in hot water with detergent).

If disposable masks are used, then they should not be used for more than a day.

We will have disposable masks available at Student Support for those who forget or do not yet have a mask.

Masks must be worn correctly to be effective.

[For details about the correct use of masks please follow this link to the covid-19 site.](#)

[Here is a video from the World Health Organization \(WHO\).](#)



School transport in Alert Level 2

School transport returns to normal operations under Alert Level 2.

Face coverings

Face coverings are recommended for children aged 12+, as they are for attending school. Any student who is unwell should not travel on a school or public bus.

Well-being

As always well-being is our focus, and that means we need to follow all the recommendations and rules at level 2.

We hope you will reassure and support your child's return to school as the benefits to well-being and learning are clear. It is natural there may be some uncertainty about coming back. Please encourage your child to ask for help. They can talk to their Rōpu/Whānau Kaitiaki, Student Support Officer or our counsellor, Mrs B Thomas, or our nurse Mrs T Hilt.

Students are expected to return to school. In there is a reason a student cannot come back to school, for instance they have been instructed to self-isolate as they are awaiting the results of covid-19 test, or a close contact of a person who has been asked to self-isolate, then please advise the school.

If you are not sure what all the rules are for alert level 2 when you are out and about, then the following information may be useful to you:

- [COVID-19 Alert Levels summary table](#)
- [COVID-19 Alert Levels detailed table](#)

As you have been doing, please keep connecting with your child's kaiako/teachers or me with any questions or concerns you might have.

Looking forward to seeing everyone back Thursday!

Ngā manaakitanga

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